



The President's Daily Brief

April 26, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~

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LATE ITEM

USSR: According to a Tass announcement, Soviet Defense Minister Grechko has died of a heart attack at age 72. The choice of his successor is likely to be between Chief of the General Staff Kulikov and Warsaw Pact Commander-in-Chief Yakubovsky, his two principal deputies.

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PORTUGAL: Preliminary unofficial returns from yesterday's legislative assembly election showed the Socialists running somewhat behind the 40 percent they would prefer to have to form a government on their own, but a Socialist minority government probably cannot be ruled out.

With 82 percent of the election districts reporting, the Socialists had 35.2 percent of the vote, the centrist Popular Democratic Party 23.9 percent, the Social Democratic Center 15.3 percent, and the Communists 14.9 percent.

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LEBANON: Tensions in Beirut have noticeably decreased since President Franjiah signed into law on Saturday the constitutional amendment setting the stage for the election of his successor.

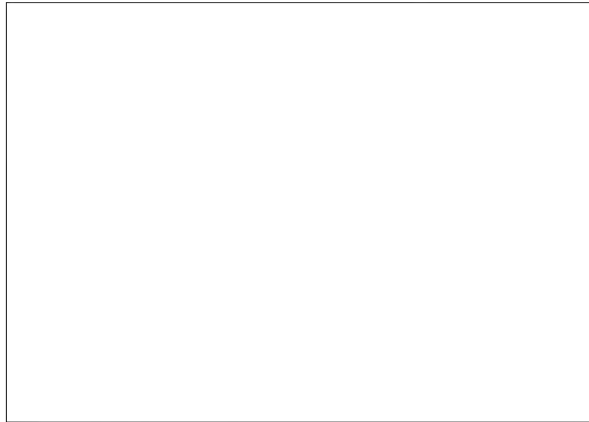
Several major as well as minor obstacles remain to choosing a new president. Lebanese political leaders now will have to decide once more where and when parliament should meet and who will provide security for its delegates. In addition, the Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians have yet to settle on a candidate to replace Franjiah. Raymond Edde--the favorite of the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists--and Ilyas Sarkis--the Syrians' and Christian Phalangists' choice--remain the front-runners, with a host of dark horses trailing behind, each hoping to emerge as a "compromise" candidate.

The leftists, under Kamal Jumblatt, are certain to keep up the pressure for a speedy decision on these matters. Jumblatt welcomed the promulgation of the amendment, but expressed skepticism that Franjiah would resign without further bloodshed. He said that the leftists would continue to set up local administrations in areas under their military control in order to provide security and restore local services.

Phalangist leaders--who put heavy pressure on Franjiah to sign--also publicly welcomed the implementation of the amendment. They warned, however, that they now expect the Palestinians and leftists to reciprocate by abiding by the cease-fire and previous agreements regulating the activities of the fedayeen in Lebanon.

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CHINA-EGYPT: Talks last week between Chinese officials and an Egyptian delegation led by Vice President Mubarak resulted in a military protocol and agreements to expand economic cooperation and trade.

Mubarak, who met with Chairman Mao last Tuesday, said that China had "responded in a magnificent and positive manner to everything submitted by the Egyptian delegation." He also announced that Premier Hua Kuo-feng had accepted an invitation to visit Egypt at some future date.

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Peking also has agreed to assist Cairo in developing agricultural light industries, accelerating implementation of industrial projects previously agreed upon, and considering new projects. A Chinese delegation will visit Cairo soon to work out the details.

The discussions in Peking were dominated by Egypt's effort to obtain increased Chinese military assistance. Peking has agreed to supply some badly needed aircraft

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engines and other equipment. Chinese officials often have said they will do everything they can to help Cairo, but the Egyptians realize that Chinese aid will never match the volume or sophistication of Soviet equipment.

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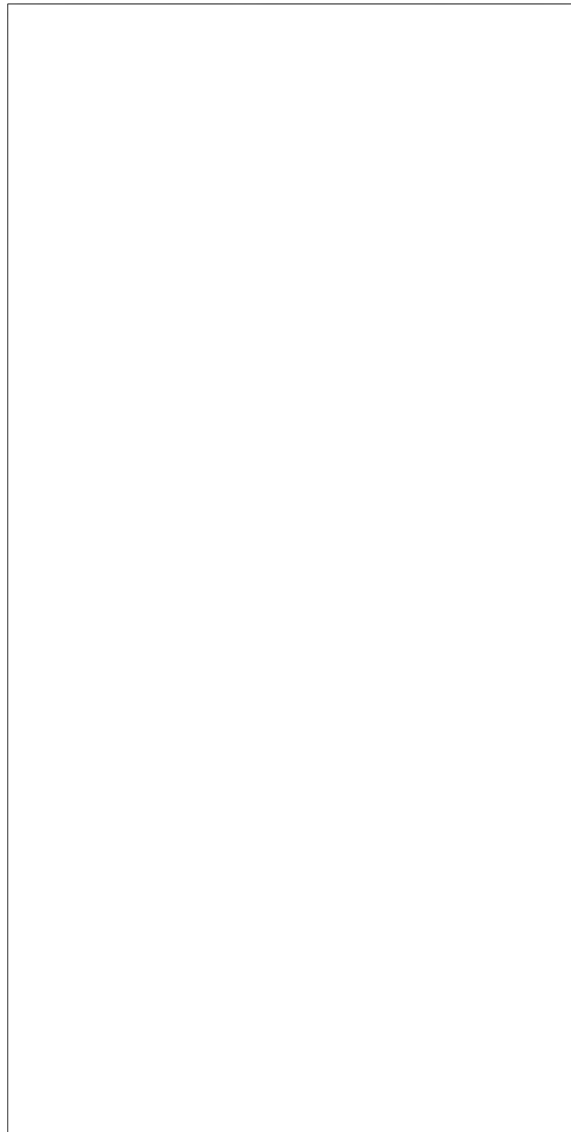
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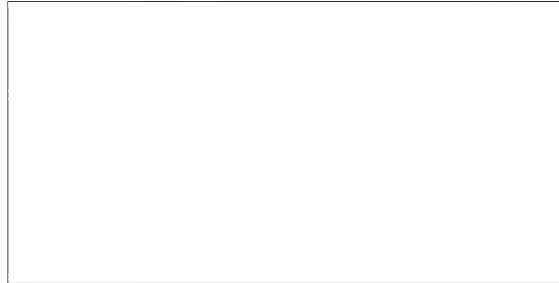
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